Analysis of Senior Secondary Agricultural Science Students' Attitude Towards Agriculture as a Career,

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to analyze senior secondary agricultural science students' (SSAS) attitude towards agriculture as a career. A total of 200 SSAS were randomly selected from Abeokuta South (urban) and Odeda (rural) local government areas of Ogun State Nigeria. Data was collected through a structured interview schedule and analyzed by frequencies, percentages, 't' test and chi-square. The study concluded that most of the students do not like and would not practice agriculture as a career or study it in college because of the drudgery involved in Nigerian agriculture, parents and peer influence, low prestige associated with farming in Nigeria, and low/slow cash return/profit. There was no significant relationship between students' attitude toward agriculture as a career and location of their school (rural or urban) and no significant difference existed between urban and rural school students in their willingness to practice agriculture. Willingness of students to practice agriculture may be improved if school farms are mechanized, subsidized inputs provided, basic amenities provided in the rural areas, loans provided to farmers, career guidance and counseling organized to change students' attitude. It was recommended that the government and high schools should develop mechanized school farms, periodical career guidance and counseling organized by schools and relevant government agencies to encourage students to choose agriculture as a career, public enlightenment to encourage youths to choose agriculture as a career, school farms should not be used as site for punishing school offenders, provision of basic amenities in the rural areas, provision of loans and subsidized agricultural inputs to farmers for farming and funding of research in all areas of agriculture

Keywords: